Production, Export and demand of Onions

1554. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the production, export and demand of onion during the last three years and steps taken by Government for improving onion stock in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : The production, export and the resultant consumption which is assumed as demand of onion during last three years was as under :—

Year	Production	Export	Resultant Consumption
	(1)	(2)	(1—2)
1990-91	32.26	2.89	29.37
1991-92	35.85	4.06	31.79
1992-93	35.90	3.95	31.95

In order to step-up the production and the resultant stocks, the Government has been implementing development programmes. The efforts made by National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation have made it possible to develop cultivation of Kharif onion in Southern and Northern States. This has helped in improving the availability of onion throughout the year.

Shrimp culture on Coast line

1555. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to encourage shrimp culture on the coast line ;

(b) whether it is a fact that big industries are entering this sector ; and

(c) what action Government are taking to small agriculturists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For encouraging small scale aquaculturists in shrimp farming, the Government have taken the following important initiatives:

(i) Guidelines issued to states for allotment of 50% of the available potential brackishwater area, requiring low investment, for development, to individual/groups of fishermen or economically weaker sections or fisheries co-operatives ;

(ii) Establishment of Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BEDAs) in 37 coastal districts for providing a package of technical, financial and extension support. A maximum subsidy of Rs. 30,000 per ha. per annum admissible to a beneficiary upto a maximum land holding of 10 ha. per beneficiary ;

(iii) Establishment of Pilot shrimp farms and shrimp hatcheries for demonstrating the techno-economic viability of shrimp farming and supply of shrimp seed ; and

(iv) Provision of two months training on shrimp farming to small farmers through the BFDAs.

Cost of Electricity component in calculation of Support Prices

1556. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what is the

cost of electricity component which is taken into account while calculating the minimum support prices for wheat, paddy, sugarcane, cotton and other crops, which fall in Market Intervention Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : A statement showing cost of electricity components in cost of cultivation per hectare and cost of production per quintal in selected crops/states is enclosed.

Statement

Details regarding the Cost of electricity component in cost of cultivation/production of selected crops/States during 1991-92 *unless otherwise specified*

Sl. No.	Crops	States					
		Punjab		Haryana		Andhra Pradesh	
		Per hectare (Rs.)	Per quintal (Rs.)	Per hectare (Rs.)	Per quintal (Rs.)	Per hectare (Rs.)	Per quintal (Rs.)
1	Wheat	52.14	1.18	176.73	3.91	—	—
2	Paddy	251.64 (90-91)	4.86 (90-91)	448.65	10.55	50.40 (88-89)	1.05 (88-89)
3	Sugarcane	—	—	323.77 (90-91)	0.59 (90-91)	106.26 (90-91)	0.15 (90-91)
4	Cotton	56.25	3.63	59.05 (90-91)	4.80 (90-91)	13.16 (88-89)	2.07 (88-89)
5	Rapeseed/Mustard	25.32 (90-91)	2.62 (90-91)	126.92	10.71	—	—
6	Gram	—	—	19.83	2.29	—	—
7	Jowar	—	—	—	—	0.46 (88-89)	0.08 (88-89)

Ban on Import of Agricultural products with Toxic Residues

1557. SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that the developed countries are banning the imports of agricultural products with toxic residues present in these due to use of chemical fertilisers ; insecticides and pesticides;

(b) if so whether it would be detrimental to our plans for boosting agro-exports;

(c) if so, what is being done to overcome this problem ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Generally our agricultural products statisfy the prescribed parameters. The Commodity Boards, the Export Promotion Councils and the Export Inspection Agencies have been organising educational programmes, disseminating necessary information on the subject, providing analytical and technical support to processors and exporters and taking up programmes through media such as TV and Radio.